



Autism Assistance Dogs Ireland



2021 ANNUAL REPORT

A Year of Growth

Autism Assistance Dogs Ireland Company Limited by Guarantee. Directors Report and Financial Statements 31st August 2021

2021 A Year of Growth, Autism Assistance Dogs Ireland's Annual Report was supported by SECAD Partnership CLG (SECAD) through the SICAP Programme.





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A Message from our Chairperson



t has been my absolute pleasure and honour to act as Chair of the Board of Directors and Trustees of Autism Assistance Dogs Ireland (AADI) this year and I am delighted to present our annual report for 2021.

Under Nuala's (Chief Executive Officer and Founder) guidance,

This year we placed a

record 12 assistance

dogs with families

and our income

from donations has

exceeded €1m, but

many challenges and

opportunities lie ahead.

The 3-year strategic

plan that we adopted in

July 2021 aims to ensure

we are in a position

to place 45 assistance

dogs annually with

families from 2024 and

thereafter.

AADI's story has been a remarkable one. This year we placed a record 12 assistance dogs with families and our income from donations has exceeded €1m, but many

challenges and opportunities lie ahead. The 3-year strategic plan that we adopted in July 2021 aims to ensure we are in a position to place 45 assistance dogs annually with families from 2024 and thereafter. The organisation required to achieve this is considerable.

The ongoing effort required to ensure the long-term financial viability of AADI when the majority of our income comes from donations is considerable but it is a challenge that the Board of Directors has embraced. With the invaluable support of Nuala, Carla (Head of Fundraising & Communication) and the wider staff team, we have created an organisation that is well placed to deliver on its long term strategic objectives but has now a greater resilience so it can weather the unpredictable nature of operating a charity in the 2020's. We could not however have achieved this without the incredible support from

our volunteers, fundraisers and donors whose support has been instrumental in supporting the organisation's growth and development to date. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to thank everyone connected with AADI for the vital contributions that they have made to our success this year.

The Covid pandemic has shown us that the world can be unpredictable, and whilst we can't always predict what is going to happen, we need to be strong enough financially and operationally to rise to whatever challenges are posed next.

In 2020 the Charities Regulator published a governance framework which we are required to adhere to in full. This framework is designed to ensure that AADI operates in accordance with best-practice standards as determined by the regulator. I am pleased to report that AADI met all the governance standards demanded of the Charities Regulator. In addition, AADI has strived to exceed the requirements set by the Charities Regulator by also obtaining "Triple Lock" status from Charities Institute Ireland. I am delighted to report that in 2021 we met this goal and were granted "Triple Lock" status in October 2021. To obtain "Triple Lock" status charities must demonstrate full compliance with the

> Charity Regulators standards, that all funds are raised to the highest ethical standards and performance and results are fully transparent.

> This means that not only can we account in full for every Euro that is donated to AADI; we can show how and why it was spent in the furtherance of our charitable ambitions.

> There are many charities in Ireland, all doing great work in their particular sector, and I applaud every individual who is prepared to give their time supporting such great causes. If you have not heard of AADI before or are interested to find out more about how we support the autistic community in Ireland, I hope that this report will provide you with enough evidence to convince you of the huge amount of good that we currently do, and also the potential that we have as an organisation to do more. And equally, as important, my hope is

that by us evidencing our focus on governance, ethics and transparency you will trust us to use your kind donations to continue to support all those families whose lives can be transformed with the support of a trained assistance dog from Autism Assistance Dogs Ireland.

Michael Stalley FCA - CHAIRPERSON

A message from our GEO



ADI's mission and activity is to change the world for children with autism by providing them with an assistance dog. Autism assistance dogs open up a whole new world of opportunity and possibility for children with autism, allowing them to reach their full potential in their everyday lives. With the placement of an assistance dog, families get their lives back.

The parent/guardian can now leave their home safely and do everyday things that we take for granted such as going to the shop with your child.

Families can all go together to watch other siblings participate in sports activities, everyone can go to the local park and playground. No longer will one parent have to stay at home with their child with autism, feeling isolated and afraid to go anywhere. I am extremely proud to share with you that in 2021, we placed more assistance dogs than ever before with families from right across the country. and helped them take the first step in getting back out into the community as a family. Thanks to our volunteers, fundraisers, and corporate partners, 12 assistance dogs were placed with children with autism.

2021 was a significant year in the development of the organisation, which can be best described as a year of growth and investment. By investing in the organisation we have ensured we are in a position to meet our long-term strategic goal of being able to place 45 assistance dogs each year with families by 2024. This year was another challenging year for us all as we continued to navigate the Covid 19 pandemic. Despite this, we had our most successful year to date. Together, we trained and placed more dogs and for the first time in the organisation's history, we raised over €1m. This represents a 72% growth in income for the organisation. I would like to acknowledge the hard work, commitment, and dedication of the board, staff, and volunteers for 2021.

In 2014 our list became so oversubscribed, due to overwhelming demand, that we were forced to close it to new applicants. I am delighted that for the first time since then, in July 2021 we were able to re-open our waiting list. Sadly, we allocated the 30 spaces available in under 2 minutes. Going forward our list will open annually. We will make available as many spaces as possible each year, whilst ensuring we keep the waiting time down to a maximum of 12–18 months for those applicants that are successful in securing a place. We must continue to

develop and strengthen the organisation so that we can continue to increase our capacity and train more assistance dogs to reach more families that need them.

Our breeding programme produced 3 litters and 16 puppies for our Puppy Training Programme. The Puppy Training Programme expanded from the Munster Puppy Scheme into the Greater Dublin area and a total of 51 puppies were added to the programmes. We welcomed an additional 25 volunteer foster families to the programme. We are so grateful to our foster families. Without their support, we could not do what we do. 12 dogs successfully graduated from the Advanced Training Programme and graduated as assistance dogs. Congratulations to our team of instructors who worked tirelessly against the background of the pandemic, to ensure 12 dogs met the International Assistance Dogs Standards and graduated as assistance dogs.

Investing in the team was essential, as more puppies entered the Puppy Training Programme, and more Instructors were needed to train the dogs as they entered the Advanced Training Programme. 2 instructors, 1 puppy supervisor, 2 part-time fundraisers, and 1 parttime administrator joined the team. As we continued to respond to the challenges presented by Covid 19, the team demonstrated great courage and commitment to not only adapt but to thrive.

After 10 years based in Mallow, we moved to larger premises in Little Island, Co. Cork, where we can accommodate our expanding team and the increased number of dogs entering the Advanced Training

Not only was the year marked by our fundraising and Assistance Dog successes, but it was also the year where we invested in the future sustainability of the charity. A new strategic plan for the next three years was approved by the Board of Directors. Our strategic goal is to be in a position to place at least 45 assistance dogs annually with families from 2024 and thereafter.

Thanks to all of our donors and volunteers for your continued support. This annual report summarises our activities and achievements for 2021. All of which would not have been possible without your support.

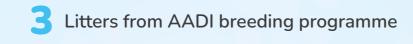
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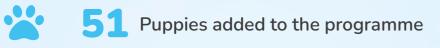
Nuala Geraghty - CEO

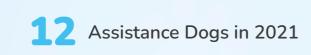


2021 at a glance











- 5 Class training workshops with new clients
- 12 New clients trained
 - 75 Aftercare visits to new clients
- 12 Annual Routine Aftercare visits to all clients
- 6 New Staff

51 puppies added to the AADI Training Programme









12 Qualified AADI Assistance Dogs



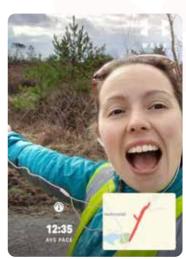




Income











Woodie's Heroes Campaign 2021

This was our third year working with the team at Woodie's and it was a privilege to be selected for the 2021 Heroes Campaign. A special thank you to Lucas and his family who went above and beyond as our ambassadors for the duration of the campaign. The campaign ran from the 18th of July to the 13th of August and saw customers donate in-store at the till along with staff and suppliers fundraising and donating to the Woodie's Heroes Campaign. A record amount of €134,128 was donated to AADI in October 2021. As our financial year runs from September 2020 to August 2021, these funds will be included in our 2022 accounts. We received a donation of €106,795.35 from Woodie's Heroes 2020 in October 2021 and these funds are included in this annual report.

The final part of the campaign was Woodie's staff cycling challenge which took place from August 14th to August 21st. Thank you to our wonderful volunteers, clients and superheroes who met the Woodie's staff at their local store. Thank you for welcoming the cyclists as they collected cheques from each store that organised in-house fundraising events to raise vital funds for the campaign. Thank you to the team at Woodie's for their continued support. Not only did the campaign raise vital funds for AADI but it also raised our profile at a national level, as Lucas and Elsa's story was featured in Sunday papers and adverts on TV and radio ran for the duration of the campaign.







Meet Lucas and Elsa. Our Woodie's Heroes Charity Ambassadors

eet Lucas (12) and his dog Elsa, who were AADI's Woodie's Heroes ambassadors for 2021. Lucas, from Co Meath, and Elsa are the best of friends – at home, Elsa is like any other family pet; she loves cuddles and belly rubs and chewing on the occasional shoe!



"We were so excited when we were told Elsa would be joining our family. I was grinning from ear to ear. It had been a long 7-year wait. Life was difficult and getting more and more difficult, especially with the development of Covid 19. Lucas was at home a lot and it was getting harder and harder to leave the house. If we needed a break from the house or had to pick something up from the supermarket and it was unplanned we would use a buggy to take Lucas out. However, Lucas is a growing 12-year-old boy and was getting too big for the buggy. It was so stressful trying to manage these outings as Lucas didn't want to walk and would drop to the ground. I became really scared for the future, what would it look like once the buggy was gone, what was I supposed to do? I can't carry Lucas and I can't persuade him to walk in those situations.

The arrival of Elsa has brought a whole new dimension to our family. It's a lot of work but I love it. In the house, I can see a change in Lucas. He loves being around Elsa, he looks for her, he wants her near, he wants her beside him on the couch or in the bed, which is something I've never seen before. Going out is no longer what it used to be. The difference Elsa has made is mindblowing. Lucas will now walk, we can go to the supermarket, he's interested in going to places. He's brilliant at holding the handle and he's delighted that he no longer needs to hold my hand. He has a bit of freedom. I'm more relaxed because I know Elsa will do what I tell her and that Lucas is safe and can't run out onto a road. Elsa has allowed us to go out and about safely together as a family".

Joanna Briggs, Lucas's Mum and owner of Elsa (Assistance Dog).

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Our Mission & Vision



OUR MISSION

Our mission is simple: to change the world for children with autism by providing an autism assistance dog.

To enrich the lives of people with disabilities by:

- (i) the training and placement of highly skilled assistance dogs for safety, independence, and companionship.
- providing a personalised service with continuing support for assistance dog teams
- providing individual training to meet clients' specific needs
- providing a personalised follow-up programme
- providing encouragement and support for all volunteers to ensure the future of the charity.



OUR VISION

Our long term vision for the charity is to: Achieve a service output in keeping with demand.

Explore and develop cost-effective solutions to provide a permanent training centre that can grow with the organisation.

Maximise impact on the wider autistic community through the provision of Companion dogs, work placements, awareness and developing a training centre that is an inviting, safe place for families with autistic children to visit.

Become a centre of excellence in terms of training dogs exclusively through positive, reward-based techniques.

Our Journey So Far...



Directors' Report

The charity is managed by a voluntary Board of Directors. The Chief Executive Officer ("CEO") is Ms Nuala Geraghty who has led the charity since its foundation in 2010, having previously worked in the assistance dog sector for 15 years.

Details of the external advisors engaged by the Charity are as follows:

туре	Name	Address
Bankers	Permanent TSB	29 Bank Place, Mallow,
		Co. Cork
Bankers	Bank of Ireland	East Gate, Little Island,
		Co. Cork
Auditors	Quintas	Heron House, Blackpool,
		Cork

Directors and Secretary

The names of persons who at any time during the financial year and since the year-end unless otherwise stated were directors of the charity are as follows:

Michael Palmer Kieran McGeary, (resigned 2nd February 2021) Michael Palmer Andrew Balfe, (resigned 22nd May 2021) Michael Stalley Mairead O'Mahony (appointed 11 November 2020; resigned 5 September 2021)

Principal Activities and Objectives

The directors meet on a monthly basis, either face to face or via video conference and are responsible for the overall governance and the strategic direction of the charity. The charity is run on a day-to-day basis by the CEO who is responsible for ensuring that the charity meets its strategic objectives and the day-to-day operations run smoothly.

Overview of Programmes

AADI's mission and core activity is to change the world for children with autism. Autism assistance dogs open up a whole new world of opportunity and possibility for children with autism, allowing them to reach their full potential in their everyday lives. It takes up to two years and costs €22,000 to train an autism assistance dog. The process consists of three elements: a breeding programme, a puppy training programme and an advanced training and placement programme. In 2021, we had a record-breaking year and trained 12 autism assistance dogs and 5 companion dogs. All three elements of the programme met their strategic goals, and this has enabled us to begin scaling up our organisation to better meet the overwhelming demand for autism assistance dogs.

Our Activities in 2020 and 2021	2020	2021
# of Trained Assistance Dogs	1	12
# of Companion Dogs	9	5
# of litters from AADI Breeding Programme	2	3
# of puppies added to the programme	21	51
# of class training workshops for new clients	1	5
# of new clients trained	1	12
# of aftercare visits to new clients	6	75
# of annual routine visits to all clients	6	12
# of new staff	3	6
Income	606,525	1,044,179

Puppy Training Programme 2021

The Puppy Training Programme was managed by one full-time supervisor in the Munster region. The programme added on average 20 to 30 puppies every year. To meet our strategic objectives, a second full-time puppy supervisor was recruited in 2021 and the programme was expanded into the Greater Dublin area. The expansion of the programme significantly increased our capacity for placing puppies. In 2021, 51 puppies went through the programme compared to 21 in 2020. To meet our target of producing 20-30 assistance dogs in 2022/2023, the programme will manage 70 puppies in 2022 and recruit an additional 25 foster families.

The puppy programme caters for puppies between 8 weeks of age up to approximately 12-18 months of age. The purpose of the puppy programme is to socialise the puppies and provide a good foundation of basic training to give them the best possible chance of success at the advanced training stage. During their time in the puppy programme, puppies are evaluated regularly for

temperament, health and other factors that may deem them unsuitable as assistance dogs.

During the puppy programme, our puppy supervisors can manage up to 30 puppies in their locality. The puppies are all placed with volunteer fosterers. Volunteer boarders are also required to cover holidays, and to provide temporary relief if a puppy needs to be moved from a volunteer foster home. The puppy supervisor manages all the volunteer fosterers and boarders in their locality along with the puppies. They aim to visit all puppies at least once a month although typically will visit the younger puppies more often. These visits or classes are an opportunity for the puppy supervisor to provide direction and guidance to the volunteers on training and to evaluate the puppies.

Rachel Quigley, our Puppy Supervisor based in Dublin talks us through her first 12 months as she set up the Puppy Training Programme in the Greater Dublin Area.





2 PUPPY SUPERVISORS

Total of 1000 puppy visits/classes

60 Puppies



Puppy Training
Programme



Puppy fosterers and temporary boarders providing 24 hour care



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"In 2020, I joined AADI as a puppy supervisor and one of my first tasks was to set up the Puppy Training Programme in Dublin. After 6 weeks of training with my colleague in the Munster programme in Cork, I took 5 puppies from Munster back up with me to Dublin and that's how it started. During my time in Cork, I assessed and recruited new volunteer foster families for the Dublin Programme. There was a great response to the programme and a lot of people applied. Covid helped in that regard, as people were at home and could care for a puppy for 6 months to a year. Now though it's harder as we don't have as many I'm immensely proud of what the team has achieved people applying.

It's been an amazing year, to think we started with those 5 puppies and over the course of the year, it has grown to 26 puppies. It's a huge achievement as Covid hindered the programme. Travel restrictions meant we advised our volunteer foster families not to travel to meet me. I had my letter which meant I could travel, so I was driving around to each puppy and taking them out to do a training walk

or take them on public transport. It slowed the whole programme down. Shopping centres were quiet, coffee shops were closed which meant that we couldn't do some of the training. For example, we couldn't do the sit down in a cafe and have the dog settle while you have a coffee. Some of the dogs went from 8 weeks old through to the whole of the training programme and never experienced a busy shopping centre. This then put extra pressure on trainers when they got them.

What I really love about my role is that you have the puppy from 8 weeks, right up to a year and you see them progress and have the chance to do in-depth training with them. You get to know the puppy and the volunteer fosterer really well, as you're meeting them every week to start with and then every 2 weeks as they go through the programme. You get to see what's working and what's not working. As a dog trainer, I'm always refining my skills to adapt to each dog and each fosterer. The most important part of the programme is how I work with our fosterers and that was one of the biggest challenges in setting up the programme. I needed to build a rapport with the volunteers as we are asking them to do a lot. Everyone was new so we all had to learn at the same time. Without their abilities and commitment, the programme cannot work. So my job is to find a form of training that will work for them and their lifestyle and ultimately result in the dog being trained.

The job is so varied and you're never bored. An average day consists of admin work in the morning and then from lunchtime onwards I'm out doing individual training sessions or training walks with up to 4 dogs. Training walks are when they have their working jacket on and we're doing something specific, it could be that they're going on the bus or into a shop for the first time. I'll do this once with the volunteer fosterer and then after that, they'll do it multiple times with the dog for the year.

over the last 12 months. I'm particularly grateful to all our volunteer foster families who have worked with me to establish the programme and I look forward to working with everyone next year as we continue to grow the programme".

Rachel Quigley, Puppy Supervisor.

Advanced Training & Placement Programme

2021 was a milestone year for several reasons:

- We qualified our highest number of assistance dogs to date. A total of 12 dogs came through the advanced training programme.
- An additional 2 instructors joined the team.
- We moved to larger premises in Little Island to accommodate the increased number of dogs in training and the growing team.
- We reopened our waiting list.

As a result of the strategic planning and development to date, this year we reached the stage where we could reopen our waiting list for the first time since 2014. We made 30 places available on the 6th July 2021. The process consisted of a registration of interest, attendance at an information webinar and a completed application form.

While this was a great day for the organisation and the 30 families whose lives will be transformed by an assistance dog, there were 199 applicants who were not successful.

We have assured these families that we will continue to advocate on their behalf and work to continue to grow our organisation so we can meet the needs of as many families as possible.. We plan to provide assistance dogs to all the clients currently on our waiting list within 12-18 months. We are committed to re-opening our list annually going forward and making available a restricted number of places to ensure our list does not become unmanageable and clients, once accepted onto our waiting list and after an assessment, can expect a dog within a reasonable

Waiting List Opens and Closes in 120 seconds...

- ≥ 8250 Subscriber Emails Sent
- 290 Webinar Registrations
- 214 Webinar Attendees

- 229 Demand for Places
- 30 Places Filled
- 199 Families Remain on the Waiting List

Advanced Dog Training

Our Team

All of our assistance dogs reach the standards required by Assistance Dogs International and are trained by a team of Assistance Dogs Instructors who have years of experience in advanced dog training. The role of Assistance Dog Instructor is a highly specialised one, which involves training the dogs and forming relationships with clients to successfully place a dog with a family. Our Instructors train clients on how to handle and care for the dog and make the maximum use out of the dog. This relationship lasts for the duration of the working life of the dog.

To qualify as an Instructor, an individual participates in an apprenticeship programme for two and a half years. Under the programme, the apprentice must undergo approximately 5 cycles of supervision by another qualified

Instructor and each cycle lasts for 5-6 months. The first cycle would be 100% supervision with the amount of supervision decreasing at each cycle. A cycle is the process of taking a designated number of dogs through their advanced training, establishing suitable matches for those dogs, conducting client training and aftercare with matched clients. Apprentice Instructors will also conduct several assessments during each cycle with a similar level of decreasing supervision. In 2021 we recruited two apprentice dog training instructors to meet our strategic goal of training 20-25 assistance dogs in 2022. Ciara Fleming, an Apprentice Assistance Dog Instructor talks us through her experience of the apprenticeship programme.







"I always knew I wanted to work with animals so when I When Luther and Lulu graduate, I'll have learned how to finished school I studied animal management in Cork and continued my education to degree level in the UK. When I returned to Ireland I started working as a dog trainer and have spent time reviewing and getting to know our in 2021 I joined Autism Assistance Dogs Ireland as an Apprentice Assistance Dog Instructor.

I love my job as I get to work with dogs every day and no day is the same. There's always variety, whether it is training the dog, training clients on how to handle the dog, attending fundraising events or meeting donors or visiting families in their own homes to see if they'll be a good match for one of the dogs under my instruction; it's Come early 2022, I'll jointly host my first class training always different.

An instructor is a very specialised role and simply being a dog trainer is not enough to qualify as an instructor. So when I joined I came in as an apprentice and I'm really enjoying it. I am currently on my first cycle which roughly lasts for 6 months with Luther and Lulu and hopefully, they'll be matched in January 2022, so they'll be my first I love that the programme allows me to support our clients two dogs to graduate as assistance dogs.

As part of the apprenticeship, I'll be working with clients as well as the dogs and that's the part I'm really looking forward to. I'm an experienced dog trainer but with the support of my supervisor, I'm learning how to train my dogs to the standard of an assistance dog. I don't have experience of training people on how to handle dogs and certainly not people who will be the primary handler of an assistance dog as opposed to a pet dog. However, the apprenticeship will teach me the skills to become a Ciara Fleming, AADI Apprentice Assistance Dog teacher as such for our clients.

match them to the right families. I'll have an understanding of the type of environment that would suit them. I'll also families on our waiting list so that I learn what sort of dog would suit their child, home and lifestyle. This all takes time and experience and that's where the apprenticeship comes into its own. I'll learn from vastly experienced supervisors how to match dogs and families successfully as well as how to train and build a relationship with the

session with my supervisor for Luther and Lulu's new clients and I cannot wait. By the end of the 4-day training workshop, the client will go home with their dog. I will then visit them several times during the first few weeks, to support the clients and guide them through the first few walks with their child attached to the dog.

as they settle in with their assistance dog. The Aftercare visits are essential to ensure the partnership is working and to help families gain confidence in their ability to use the dog. Seeing a child and a client doing their first attachment walk gives me a huge sense of achievement. It's very rewarding to think that I trained the dog to an assistance dog level but more importantly, I helped to train a client and support them throughout the working life of the assistance dog."

Instructor.

Advanced Training

The advanced training of autism assistance dogs typically takes 5 months although this time can vary slightly depending on the dog's learning pace and the suitability of potential matches. The advanced training is facilitated by our Assistance Dog Instructors who work the dogs daily 5 days a week to teach them the specific skills required to qualify as an autism assistance dog. During this period the Instructor will identify a potential match for the dog to a client near the top of our waiting list and conduct a matching visit.

Class Training

Following successful training and matching and before a dog is placed with a family the clients must attend what we call 'Class Training'. This training typically takes place in a group setting with Instructors placing their pack (up to 4 dogs for a full-time instructor) at the same time. A parent (whoever will be the main dog handler) for each matched client of the Instructor's pack attend this training workshop. This takes place at either our HQ or in another suitable location near to the Instructor. Class training currently involves 3x virtual online sessions followed by 4 days of face-to-face training. The purpose of class training is to equip the handlers with all the skills they require to handle and care for the dog and maintain its level of training. In 2021, our instructors delivered 5 Class Training Workshops to 12 clients.

Placement Programme

Following successful class training, the clients take the dog home to settle in. A few days later our Instructor will visit the client's home to conduct placement aftercare. This part of the programme was severely hampered in 2020 due to Covid 19. Our instructors conducted a lot of the aftercare online and over the phone. In 2021, our instructors returned to conducting aftercare visits. Our instructors conducted 75 visits to new clients and 12 annual routine visits to 12 clients. The aftercare programme usually involves 4-5 visits during the first week or two at home and it is focused on attaching the child and working the dog with the child attached. Clients will then receive aftercare visits as necessary (minimum 1 per year) to mitigate any training breakdown, ensure a beneficial long term partnership and ensure the dog's level of health and training is maintained throughout the working life of the dog. We retain ownership of the Assistance Dogs and they are leased to the families (without charge) for the duration of their working life

Companion Dogs

Companion Dogs can be a welcome friend to someone who struggles to form relationships with their peers and can help reduce anxiety for children and adults with autism. Whilst they don't have access rights to public places like the assistance dog, they can provide much needed companionship within the home. They also promote responsibility and encourage a healthy exercise routine.

There will be approximately 50% of puppies that do not progress into advanced training or are unsuccessful in graduating at the advanced training level and are released from the training programme. Where possible we try to place released dogs as Companion Dogs. Our goal during the term of this plan is to reduce that number and to identify these dogs as quickly as possible so the dog can be replaced in the Instructor's pack.

In 2021, we placed 5 Companion Dogs with families compared with 9 in 2020. The demand for Companion Dogs continues to rise. In advance of reopening the assistance dog waiting list, we held information webinars for potential new clients. As a result of these sessions, some potential clients realised that a Companion Dog was more suited to their needs and opted to apply for a Companion Dog instead of an Assistance Dog. Our goal is to reopen the Companion Dog waiting list in early 2022.



Bella helps Rebecca go to places she would have avoided, ran from. It's like magic.

- Elizabeth Petit, Rebecca's Mum and owner of Autism Assistance Dog, Bella.



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Volunteer Programme

Our volunteers are at the heart of what we do. We simply could not train assistance dogs without their support. The process of delivering an assistance dog is underpinned by a network of volunteers and their families. At every stage of the process, we rely on our volunteers to provide homes for our dogs, care for and assist with dog training, as well as fundraising to raise vital funds to train assistance dogs.

We would like to thank all our volunteers and their families who have helped by

- fostering puppies, doing initial training and socialising. This part of the training programme can take up to 15 months for each puppy. Each volunteer undergoes an assessment before being approved as
- providing homes for our dogs in the Advanced Training Programme. This part of the training can take up to 6 months for each dog. Volunteer boarders care for these dogs, when they are not out with their trainer, overnight and at weekends. Each volunteer undergoes an assessment before being approved as a boarder.

- providing long term homes for our breeding dogs, when they are not whelping puppies, Cara, Gina and
- whelping dogs in their own home for up to 10 weeks. Whelping is the term used to describe the puppy environment for a litter of puppies. It refers to the process of caring for the expectant mother in the days leading up to labour, supporting her through the delivery and caring for the mother and the litter for the first 8 weeks of their lives.
- fundraising on the charity's behalf, providing assistance with events, giving time and support to make them a success

AADI volunteers go above and beyond on a daily basis. A selection of our volunteers have shared their experiences for this report and we hope you get a sense of how valuable their work is to us and a better understanding of the role they play in delivering assistance dogs for children with



Our Volunteers

Breeding Dog Holder Volunteers

Currently we have three active breeding dogs in the AADI breeding programme, Cara, Luna and Gina. I would like to acknowledge the commitment and support we receive from our breeding dog holder volunteers. Vicky and her family provide a long term home for Cara, Deborah and her family provide a long term home for Luna and Debbie's family provide a long term home for Gina. As well as providing a home for our breeding dogs, our breeding holder volunteers are responsible for the care of the dogs leading up to, and throughout the dog's pregnancy before they go into the whelping stage. Without the support of our breeding holder volunteers, we could not operate our breeding programme.

Nuala Geraghty, CEO



Puppy Whelping Volunteer

We are hugely grateful to Lynn and Michael Christianson and their family for providing 5 star care to our breeding dogs and their puppies throughout the whelping phase. This requires a huge time commitment and they have been required to learn and develop specialist skills to help our puppies get the best start in life and in their journey to becoming life changing assistance dogs. Lynn and Michael take care of our breeding dogs in the days approaching labour, liaising with the vet to ensure labour goes smoothly. This is a 24hr commitment for the first few weeks while the puppies gain their strength. All puppies bred by AADI are reared within the home environment and follow best practice, so in addition to daily weight and health checks, the puppies are exposed to numerous stimuli from 3 days old onwards. As we grow we hope to find other amazing families like the Christianson's that can support this part of the program. Lynn also shares this incredible journey with our supporters in a dedicated facebook group https://www.facebook.com/ groups/aadipuppies.

Sarah Buckley, Individual Giving and Volunteer Officer





Volunteer Puppy Fosterer



My husband and our three boys were asking for a dog for a while, I never had one and I wasn't sure we could cope. When I saw the AADI's post on facebook looking for foster families, I thought this would be great, getting a dog, doing something good & having support at the same time. And I didn't have to commit for 15 years!

I completed a form after discussing it with my family. I wanted to be sure the boys understood it wasn't our dog, we would have to hand it back & follow the rules. I had no idea of how it worked and didn't think we would be selected. Then we were told we were selected for an interview, I still didn't think it could happen. Rachel, the puppy supervisor for Dublin interviewed and passed us. We were going to have a 6 month Labrador in January. In early January Rachel asked if we'd be interested in an 8 week old retriever instead, how could we say no to the Andrex puppy! I still couldn't believe it was going to happen, then the 20kg food arrived, made it more real, then the day came, Rachel handed me over this very cute ball of fluff! Along with his crate/bed/toys/medical cert.

For us it was a test and a good deed, but part of the process is to say goodbye, and we are working on that. In a couple of weeks, this 8kg pup, now 1y & 36kg will move on to do his advanced training, before starting his life with his forever family.

The first few weeks were tough, Norris hated his crate, falling asleep and early morning were very hard. He was easily toilet trained with all of Rachel's good expertise. It was amazing, anything I wasn't sure about, she'd have a trick up her sleeve. Rachel made it so easy to train him and suggested exercises & time frames to match his growth, physical & mental.

Our boys grew a lot with him, learned to express feelings, voiced questions, and used the dog to get answers to questions they wouldn't be comfortable asking otherwise. Now I can't imagine a life without a dog but I'll be scared that no dog could ever be as good as Norris.

AADI we cannot thank you enough for what you made us experience in such amazing conditions, all the support is priceless. Thank you for the amazing job you're doing, I hope you're proud of what you do because you give a new lease of life to families.

Maud Mainfray, Volunteer Puppy Fosterer

Fundraising Volunteer



I have participated in many fundraisers during the years for AADI. This year was my first time participating in a virtual challenge. I took part in the 50 miles in October. Before the challenge started I volunteered to fold t-shirts and stuff envelopes for the many people taking part in the challenge, it was all hands to the pump. I brought home 3 boxes of t-shirts and sat down and folded them all, over a weekend. To begin the challenge I set up a Facebook fundraiser, the staff in the fundraising department are very helpful with how to drum up support for your challenge. On the first of October, I set out for a walk with my own dog Takanni and covered nearly 5 km. We are all part of a private group on Facebook where we can post how we got on and the fundraising team can easily deliver messages and updates. The group was a great source of encouragement. Everyone was so lovely to each other and it was a great community feel.

It was lovely as normally when you do something like say the mini-marathon you do it in a group. Since Covid, we can't do this as easily. The group was a lovely way to connect with others and when we would all do our own walk and share pictures with the other group members. It was lovely seeing where others went for their walks and who went with them. I would also make sure to update my Facebook fundraiser so my donations would clock up as well. I loved getting out everyday clocking up the miles. It's surprising how quickly they add up. I made sure to wear my challenge T-shirt as much as possible so I could let others know what I was doing. At the end of the challenge, I got a certificate of achievement, which now has pride of place on my fridge. Can't wait to take part in another challenge soon

Hilary Clarke, AADI Fundraiser

Volunteer Puppy Fosterer



Michelle McCaffrey, Volunteer Puppy Fosterer



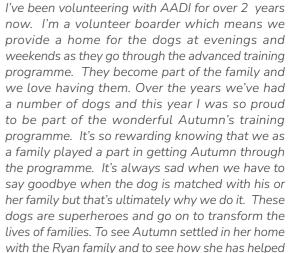
Tus Placement Participant

I was lucky enough to gain a placement through Tus in January 2021 and it has been an incredibly rewarding experience. Not only was I welcomed onto the team but I was given space to have a voice and a job which was exactly what I needed at the time. I had been out of work for a while at this stage and getting back into a routine with small responsibilities was incredibly beneficial to my mental health. AADI, were so open to me being around the dogs and helping out on-site knowing that that is where I had an interest in. I will never forget and forever appreciate my time with AADI.

Ellen Cogan, Tus Placement Participant



Volunteer Boarder



Ann Marie Malone, Volunteer Temporary Border

of this wonderful programme.

Joseph is what it's about. It's an honour to be part



Autism Assistance Dogs Ireland ▶ 19

Strategy 2022-2024

Autism Assistance Dogs Ireland was founded 11 years ago and in that time has worked hard to achieve recognised excellence in the placement of skilled autism assistance dogs and longer-term aftercare of client and working dog partnerships. However, the demand for our services is not being met with our current service capacity and we need to do more. It takes up to two years to produce an autism assistance dog. This is assuming you are starting with an eight-week old puppy. It is essential that we continue to plan at least 3 years in advance as the assistance dog process is 2 years. The infographic below outlines what is required to produce 30 autism assistance dogs.

For us to place 30 Assistance Dogs, this is what it takes...



With this in mind, we developed a 3-year strategic plan and identified four priorities outlined below as key building blocks to achieving our long term vision. The priorities for the next three years have shaped our objectives and annual goals outlined in this strategic plan. These priorities are key to achieving a brighter future for children with autism in Ireland and for a more impactful and sustainable future of Autism Assistance Dogs Ireland.



Priority 1

Developing our service capacity

Objectives and goals

- ✓ Increase the output of autism assistance dogs to be in a position to place 45 dogs per year at the term of
- ✓ Improve waiting list management so nobody is waiting on our list for in excess of 18 months
- ✓ Increase capacity of the puppy program so we can add 95 puppies into the training program each year
- Increase annual income to €1,950,000 to support growth in the training program

Priority 2

Securing Our Future Ensuring Sustainability

Objectives and goals

- ✓ Increase the capacity of the puppy program so we can add 95 puppies into the training program each
- Continue to grow the breeding program so it can supply 50% of the puppies entering the puppy program by 2023 and 90% thereafter
- Research and develop a strategic plan to provide a permanent, cost-efficient training centre and HQ for the organisation
- ✓ Diversify the income portfolio so no single revenue stream equates to more than 40% of the total

Priority 3

Strengthening Leadership and Management

Objectives and goals

- Strengthen and diversify the Board of Directors to increase and maintain a board size of least 7 members and to have a variety of skill set amongst board members
- Strengthen leadership and the management of staff at all levels by strengthening the senior management team and appointing team leaders to the Fundraising and Operations team
- ✓ Develop and implement an employee performance management strategy, report on performance KPI's annually and successfully increase employees' skill set year on year

Priority 4

Increase the impact on the wider autistic community

Objectives and goals

- ✓ Minimise failure rates to achieve an assistance dog failure rate no higher than 45% and place at least 90% of all dogs as assistance or companion dogs
- ✓ Raise awareness of autism and the organisation in schools and businesses by providing a school engagement program and 25 workshops annually to schools and businesses
- ✓ Provide 12 fixed term, part-time, work experience or work placement opportunities annually to adults with autism seeking to enter the workforce.

Fundraising

We are grateful to our supporters and volunteers for their support in raising funds. Together with their support our fundraising team has successfully increased our income again this year by a significant margin. Our income grew from €606,525 in 2020 to €1,044,179 in 2021. This success has enabled us to begin scaling up our organisation to better meet the overwhelming demand for autism assistance dogs.



This year we continued to respond to challenges presented by Covid 19. I knew we were in a strong position as we had already successfully adapted our fundraising strategy to respond to the challenges posed by Covid 19 in early 2020. I believed in our fundraising strategy and

by April 2020, I was able to reassure our CEO and board that we would deliver on our targets and provide the necessary evidence to give them confidence on that, and we did. That said, we still needed to continue to adapt our fundraising strategy for 2021 and focus our efforts on what would deliver our fundraising targets in the turbulent

economic and social environment. We decided to write off in-person events early on and focus our efforts on social media & digital fundraising, sponsor a puppy programme and corporate partnerships. We have a strong culture of innovation and learning at AADI, the CEO and the board firmly supported our adapted fundraising strategy and gave the team the support we needed to deliver it. As a result, we have had our most successful financial year to date and developed a strong portfolio of social & digital fundraising activity. Looking forward to 2022 we now plan to further increase revenue from other fundraising activities, in particular Corporate Partnerships, Individual Giving and Grants to ensure sustainability and a strong fundraising portfolio for years to come.

Carla Ankiah, Head of Fundraising & Communications

In 2020, our fundraising efforts were recognised by Charities Institute Ireland's Charity Excellence Awards. AADI was shortlisted in two categories, Professional Fundraiser of the Year and Digital Innovation. Carla Ankiah, our head of fundraising was awarded the prestigious title of Professional Fundraiser of the Year 2020. The award recognises the individual fundraiser who in the view of their peers has shown consistent excellence and best practice in achieving high-quality fundraising through innovation, creativity and hard work.



In 2021, a part-time Corporate Partnerships and Philanthropy Manager joined the team, bringing the total number of fundraising staff to four. The team currently consists of one full-time and three part-time staff members. With the support of numerous volunteers, they have been successful in raising awareness and gaining more public and corporate support. Our income from digital channels increased by a significant margin.

Peer-to-peer fundraising through Facebook, in particular, has supported income growth and public awareness of our organisation. Our corporate income continued to grow and for the third year running, we were an official charity partner for the Woodie's Heroes 2021 campaign.















A huge thank you to all our donors, volunteers and corporate partners for making 2020 - 2021 our most successful financial year to date.



Sponsor a Puppy Programme

In 2020 we launched our Sponsor a Puppy Programme. We are delighted that in 2021 149 supporters sponsored 4 different puppies. These generous sponsors followed the journeys of brother and sister Isak and Indi from the I litter and Lynn and Luther from the L litter who were all bred by AADI. Through monthly email pupdates, the sponsors see how the pups are getting on with their training, what challenges they are facing and how they overcome them to succeed in their journey to be a superhero. They also hear of their time off, the adventures they get up to with their puppy fosterers and the funny mishaps that sometimes happen with pups! By giving a monthly donation, these generous sponsors give AADI the security of a regular income to train these amazing dogs. Supporters can sign up through our website https://www.autismassistancedogsireland.ie/ sponsor-a-puppy and choose the puppy they would like to follow.

Virtual Fundraising

As we continued to operate under the Covid restrictions and public health guidelines, our in-person fundraising activity such as bucket collections and fundraising events organised by our supporters could not take place. We adapted our fundraising strategy to focus on social media fundraising challenges. In 2021, we delivered three challenge events on Facebook, 50 Miles in October, 50 Miles in March and Jog 62 Miles in July. For each challenge, participants were asked to run or walk 50 or 62 miles over the month and raise sponsorship and awareness for us through social media. Overall we had approximately 6380 participants involved in the three challenges and raised €664,096.

Individual Fundraisers

Thank you to our amazing 23 individual fundraisers who organised virtual walks, quizzes, marathons and even climbed a mountain (in their social bubble) to raise muchneeded funds for us. One school did a Christmas jumper day for us before the Covid restrictions kicked in! Another organisation got teams together and did a step challenge amongst their colleagues and other businesses on their street!

Corporate Partnerships

This year we received support from several organisations. With the majority of staff adapting to working remotely, we still found ways to engage with companies. Many took on fundraising activities such as step challenges and virtual events to raise funds. Employees became puppy fosterers, companies donated their services, while others sponsored our activities.

This year, we received a donation of €106,795.35 from the Woodie's Heroes Campaign in 2020 and were delighted to be selected for the third year running as a charity partner with Woodie's Heroes Campaign 2021. Towards the end of 2021, we announced two-year corporate partnerships with OSS Recruitment and Midland Hardware. Both companies have committed to sponsoring the training of an assistance dog at a cost of €22,000 per dog. These funds will be included in our 2022 accounts.





Meet our puppies whose training was sponsored by our donors in 2021 as part of the Sponsor A Puppy Programme 2021.









24 ◆ 2021 Annual Report – A Year of Growth

Business Review & Financial Results

Digital fundraising continued to perform strongly in 2021 as in person events continued to be placed on hold in line with public health guidelines. Our income from digital channels increased by a significant margin. Peer-to-peer fundraising through Facebook, in particular, has supported income growth and public awareness of our organisation. This led to a continuing increase in annual donations. The financial report shows a trading surplus for the financial year amounting to €293,519 (2020 €197,146).

To support the strategic growth of the charity, a number of critical positions have been filled and the charity relocated to a more suitable premises in Little Island, Co. Cork. The premises can accommodate the growing team and has adequate space to train the increased number of dogs in the advanced training programme.. The Directors have approved an increase in annual outgoings of €427,890 to cover additional salaries and related expenses.

The principal source of funding for the charity is the generosity of the general public with donations together with generous support from our corporate partners. At the end of the year, the company had total assets of €595,255 (2020: €283,640) and total liabilities of €37,173 (2020: €19,077). The net funds of the company have increased by €293,519 (2020: increase of €197,146).

This year we have grown our income by 72% over all 2020 levels.

Going Concern

The Board of Directors have prepared the financial statements on a going concern basis notwithstanding the Charity being subject to the unknown economic effects that could/will be caused by COVID 19. The directors are of the view that the company has taken the necessary steps in the short term to combat and manage the risks caused by COVID 19. The Directors have a reasonable expectation that the company has adequate resources to continue operating for the foreseeable future. For this reason, the going concern basis continues to be adopted in preparing the financial statements.

Structure, Governance and Management

AADI is a charitable company limited by guarantee. The company does not have a share capital and consequently, the liability of members is limited, subject to an undertaking by each member to contribute to the net assets or liabilities of the company on winding up such amounts as may be required not exceeding one Euro (€1).

AADI was established under a Constitution which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under this Constitution and managed by a Board of Directors.

The charity's Board of Directors meet on a monthly basis and are responsible for the strategic direction of the charity. At these meetings, the Board of Directors are provided with the key performance and risk indicators. The charity is run on a day-to-day basis by the CEO who is responsible for ensuring that the charity meets its strategic objectives and the day to day operations run smoothly. The CEO has delegated authority, within terms of delegation approved by the directors for operational matters including finance and employment.

There is clear division of responsibility at the charity with the board retaining control over major decisions. The Board of Directors retain overall responsibility for the strategic development of the charity in close liaison with the executive officers. The directors taken as a whole have significant experience in a wide range of areas affecting the charity including but not limited to finance, business, IT., human resource management and law. Directors are unpaid and there are no material director's expenses.

In line with our strategic goal to strengthen the leadership of the organisation, the board is seeking to recruit up to 4 new members to strengthen and expand the skillset of the board. New board members will have areas of expertise in business development, marketing and finance.

Director and Senior Staff

The Directors, who are also the trustees of the charity, consider that they themselves and the senior management team comprise the key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing and controlling the day-today operations.

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

AADI takes seriously its responsibility to identify and manage all types of organisational risks including compliance, financial, health and safety, environmental and operational risks.

The Directors have identified that the key risks and uncertainties the Charity faces relate to the risk of a decrease in the level of donations and the potential increase in compliance requirements in accordance with company health and safety, taxation and other legislation.

A Risk Management Register is in place to document the risks identified, the assessment of each risk and AADI's strategies for managing them. The Register will be held by the Secretary.

- The Board will ensure that all necessary insurance policies are in place to protect AADI as an organisation, the Board, the staff, volunteers, client families, contractors and visitors to its offices
- Reports on action taken to mitigate high risks will form part of the Chairperson's report to the Board routinely, and also inform the Annual SORP Directors Report (Statement of Recommended Practice " Accounting and Reporting by Charities" effective I January 2019)
- Changes to Legislation and Regulatory compliance will be monitored by the Board via websites, affiliation with support of organisations, monitoring of acts, internal audits and funders contractual service standard.

Reputational Risk – in common with many charities reputation damage could be caused by an event either within or outside the company's control. In order to mitigate this risk, the charity continues to adopt best practices in all areas of operation.

Accounting: Records

The Directors acknowledge their responsibilities under Sections 281 to 285 of the Companies Act 2014 to keep adequate accounting records for the company, the employment of appropriately qualified accounting personnel and the maintenance of accounting systems.

In order to comply with the requirements of the act, monthly management accounts are prepared. The accounting records of the company are kept at the registered office and principal place of business at 18A Euro Business Park, Little Island, Cork.

Directors Compliance Statement

The directors confirm they are responsible for securing the company's compliance with its relevant obligations under Section 224 of the Companies Act 2014 and confirm:

that a company compliance statement has been developed.

Statement on Relevant Audit Information

In accordance with Section 330 of the Companies Act 2014, so far as each person who was a director at the date of approving this report is aware, there is no relevant audit information, being information needed by the auditor in connection with preparing its report, of which the auditor is unaware. Having made enquiries of fellow directors and the group's auditor, each director has taken all the steps he/she is obliged to take as a director in order to make himself/herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of the information.

Statement as to disclosure to our auditors

In so far as the Directors are aware, at the time of approving our Directors' annual report:

- There is no relevant information, being information needed by the auditor in connection with preparing their report, of which the charity's auditor is unaware,
- The Directors, having made enquiries of fellow Directors and the auditor that they ought to have taken, have each taken all steps that he/she is obliged to take as Director to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

Disclosure of individual remuneration of senior staff

The disclosure of remuneration for each staff member in the senior management team is not disclosed individually due to the over-riding requirements of the Data Protection Act. Total remuneration for the team is disclosed in note 8.

Companies Act, 2014

The reporting requirements of Section 325 and Section 329(1) (c) of the Companies Act, 2014, relating to financial statements do not apply to the company, as it is a company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital.

Auditors

Pursuant to Section 383 (2) of the Companies Act 2014, the independent auditor, Quintas, Certified Public Accountants and Statutory Auditors have indicated their willingness to continue in office.

This report was approved by the Board of Directors on 8th December 2021 and signed on behalf of the board by:





Michael Palmer Director



Directors' Responsibility Statement

The Directors are responsible for preparing the Directors' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable Irish company law and regulations.

Irish company law requires the Directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under the law, the Directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with applicable Irish accounting standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102, "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland" (FRS 102) issued by the Financial Reporting Council, and promulgated by the Institute of Certified Public Accountants in Ireland as modified by the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" effective 1 January 2019. Under company law the Directors must not approve financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company, as at the end of the financial year, and profit or loss, for the financial year and otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2014.

In preparing those financial statements, the Directors are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently:
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, identify those standards, and note the effect and the reason for any material departure from those standards; and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The Directors are responsible for ensuring that the company keeps or causes to be kept adequate accounting records which correctly explain and record the transactions of the company, enable at any time the assets, liabilities, financial position and profit or loss of the company to be determined with reasonable accuracy, enable them to ensure that the financial statements and Directors' Report comply with the Companies Act, 2014 and enable the financial statements to be audited. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Directors are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the company's website.

On behalf of the board

Michael Stalley Chairperson

Michael Palmer Director

Wide of Falmer

Report On The Audit Of The Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Autism Assistance Dogs Ireland Company Limited by Guarantee for the financial year ended 31 August 2021 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, Cashflow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including the summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is the Irish Law and FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland. In applying that framework, the Directors have elected to comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice (Charities SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS102.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- pive a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the Company as at 31 August 2021 and of its surplus for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland) (ISAs (Ireland)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the company in accordance with ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of financial statements in Ireland, including the Ethical Standard issued by the Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority (IAASA), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which ISAs (Ireland) require us to report to you where:

- the Directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate: or
- the Directors have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the Company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

The Directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.



Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2014

Based solely on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, we report that:

- we have obtained all the information and explanations which we consider necessary for the purposes of our audit,
- the accounting records of the Company were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited,
- the financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records,
- in our opinion, the information given in the Directors' Report is consistent with the financial statements;
- in our opinion, the Directors' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

Based on the knowledge and understanding of the Company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified any material misstatements in the Directors' Report.

The Companies Act 2014 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion, the disclosures of Directors' remuneration and transactions required by sections 305 to 312 of the Act are not made. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Respective responsibilities

Responsibilities of Directors for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Directors' responsibilities statement, the Directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Directors are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (Ireland) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (Ireland), we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by Directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Director's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as going concerns. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the company to cease to continue as going concerns.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

The purpose of our audit work and to whom we owe our responsibilities

Our report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with section 391 of the Companies Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Patrick Kearney

For and on behalf of Quintas

Certified Public Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm

Heron House

Blackpool Park Blackpool

Cork



Statement Of Financial Activities

(including the Income & Expenditure Account)

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2021 €	Restricted funds 2021 €	Total 2021 €	Total 2020 €
Income from:					
- Grants & Donations	4	31,721	3,200	34,921	37,734
- Charitable activities	5	1,009,258		1,009,258	568,791
Total income		1,040,979	3,200	1,044,179	606,525
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	6	283,746	1,088	284,834	168,664
Charitable activities	6	463,714	2,112	465,826	240,715
Total expenditure		747,460	3,200	750,660	409,379
Net income		293,519		293,519	197,146
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		264,563	<u> </u>	264,563	67,417
Total funds carried forward		558,082		558,082	264,563

All income and expenditure arises from continuing operations.

There are no recognised gains or losses other than the surplus for the above two financial years.

On behalf of the Board





chael Stalley Mi

Chairperson Dire

Michael Palmer
Director

Date: 8 December 2021

Balance Sheet As At 31 August 2021

	Notes	2021 €	2020 €
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Assets	10	101,314	3,000
Current Assets			
Inventory	11	47,211	-
Debtors	12	12,270	11,537
Cash at bank and in hand	_	434,460	269,103
		493,941	280,640
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	(31,966)	(19,077)
Net Current assets	_	461,975	261,563
Total assets less current liabilities		563,289	264,563
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	14	(5,207)	-
Accruals and deferred income	_		
Net Assets		558,082	264,563
The funds of the charity			
Capital Contribution Reserve		-	-
Restricted Funds		-	-
Unrestricted Funds		558,082	264,563
		558,082	264,563

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors and authorised for issue on 8 December 2021. They were signed on its behalf by;







Balance Sheet As At 31 August 2021 (Continued)

	2021	2020
	€	€
Reconciliation of operating profit to net cash inflow from operating activities		
Operating (deficit)/surplus	293,519	197,146
Depreciation	9,576	700
(Increase)/decrease in inventory	(47,211)	-
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(733)	(9,356)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	9,419	4,497
Net cash (outflow)/inflow from operating activities	264,570	192,987
Cash flow statement		
Net cash (outflow)/inflow from operating activities	264,570	192,987
Financing activities	8,677	-
Capital expenditure	(107,890)	
Increase in cash in the year	165,357	192,987
Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net funds		
Increase in cash in the year	165,357	192,987
Net funds at 1 September 2020	269,103	76,116
Net funds at 31 August 2021	434,460	269,103

Notes To The Financial Statements

1. General Information

Autism Assistance Dogs Ireland Company Limited by Guarantee is constituted under Irish company law as a company limited by guarantee and is a registered charity.

Autism Assistance Dogs Ireland Company Limited by Guarantee reports its performance in accordance with the format provided for in the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" as published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales. In particular, it reports its performance for the financial year in the format of the SORP'S Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA).

2. Accounting Policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis, under the historical cost convention, and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), issued by the Financial Reporting Council, and promulgated for use in Ireland by the Institute of Certified Public Accountants in Ireland, as modified by the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (SORP 2019) effective 1 January 2019 and the Companies Act 2014.

The financial statements are presented in euro.

The preparation of financial statements in compliance with FRS 102 requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise judgement in applying the company's accounting policies. (see note 3)

The following principal accounting policies have been applied:

Going Concern

The Directors have prepared the financial statements on a going concern basis notwithstanding the Charity been subject to the unknown economic effects that could/will be caused by Covid-19. The Directors are of the view that the company has taken the necessary steps in the short term to combat and manage the risks caused by Covid-19. The Directors have a reasonable expectation that the company has adequate resources to continue operating for the foreseeable future. For this reason, the going concern basis continues to be adopted in preparing the financial statements.

Recognition of Income

- (i) Grant income from operating activities, in furtherance of the charity's programmes is accounted for on a receivable basis.
- i) Public donations and similar income arising from fundraising events and activities are accounted for when received. As with many charitable organisations, independent groups and individuals from time to time organise fundraising activities. However, as amounts collected in this way are outside the control of the company, they are not included in the financial statements until received by the company.
- (iii) Donations in kind such as services rendered to the company are recognised in income with an equal amount being charged against expenditure where valuations can be measured with confidence. Valuations of donations in kind are based on the unit cost to the donor. If such a valuation is not available, reasonable market rates are
- (iv) Interest income is recognised in the period in which it is earned.



Recognition of Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates:

- Costs of raising funds comprise the costs associated with attracting voluntary income, investment management costs and the costs of trading for fundraising purposes.
- Expenditure is analysed between the activities in furtherance of the charity's objects, cost of generating funds and governance costs between the activities in furtherance of the charity's objects, cost of generating funds and governance costs.
- The costs of each activity have been separately accumulated and disclosed. Expenditure is recognised in the period to which it relates. Expenditure incurred but unpaid at the balance sheet date is included in accruals and other creditors.
- (iv) Governance costs are the costs associated with the stewardship arrangements of the company. They comprise costs arising from constitutional and statutory obligations, as well as costs associated with the strategic management of the company's activities. Typical costs would be internal and external audit, and legal fees.

Taxation

The company, having charitable status, is not subject to corporation tax.

Restricted and Unrestricted Income

Autism Assistance Dogs Ireland Company Limited by Guarantee maintains various types of income as follows:

Restricted Income Fund:

The restricted income represents income, which has been received and recognised in the financial statements, which is subject to specific conditions imposed by the donors or grant making institutions. Donations or grants may become repayable in the event that the conditions of the related agreements are not adhered to.

Unrestricted Income:

The unrestricted Income represents amounts which are expendable at the discretion of the company in furtherance of the objects of the charity. Such funds may be held in order to finance working capital or capital investment.

Autism Assistance Dogs Ireland Company Limited by Guarantee would hold reserves for the following purposes:

- To allow for uncontrollable fluctuations in income and expenditure and for unbudgeted essential expenditure, without disproportionate disruption to operations.
- To absorb setbacks and the (adverse) effects of large scale external events.
- To take advantage of unbudgeted opportunities which cannot effectively planned in future financial periods.

Tangible Fixed Asset and Depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation is calculated to write down the cost less estimated residual value of all tangible fixed assets, other than freehold land, over their expected useful lives, using the straight-line method.

The rates applied in calculating depreciation are:

- Motor Vehicles 12.5% - Fixtures & Fittings 20% 50% - Computer Equipment

Stocks and work in progress

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost adjusted, when applicable, for any loss of service potential and replacement cost using the first in first out method. In the case of finished goods and work in progress, cost is defined as the aggregate cost of raw material, direct labour and the attributable proportion of direct production overheads based on a normal level of capacity.

Impairment of assets, other than stocks and work in progress

At each reporting date, fixed assets are reviewed to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered impairment in the recoverable amount. If there is an indication of possible impairment, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated and compared with its carrying amount. If estimated recoverable amount is lower, the carrying amount is reduced to its estimated recoverable amount, and an impairment loss is recognised immediately in profit or loss.

If an impairment loss subsequently reverses, the carrying amount of the asset is increased to the revised estimate of its recoverable amount, but not in excess of the amount that would have been determined had no impairment loss been recognised for the asset in prior years. A reversal of an impairment loss is recognised immediately in profit or

3. Critical Accounting Judgments And Estimates

In the application of the company's accounting policies, which are described in note 2, the Directors are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods. Information about critical judgements in applying accounting policies that have the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements is included in the accounting policies and notes to the financial statements.

The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below.

Going Concern

The Directors have prepared the financial statements on a going concern basis notwithstanding the Company being subject to the unknown economic effects that could be caused by Covid-19. The Directors are of the view that the company has taken the necessary steps in the short term to combat and manage the risks caused by Covid-19.

The Directors consider the current capacity of the company to fulfil its obligations and finance its ongoing operations as being adequate considering the current liquidity of the company. The Company has availed of government supports available and curtailed spending as a result of Covid-19. The Directors and Company's financial institution have confirmed their commitment and continued support to the company.



4. Income From Grants & Donations

	2021	2020
	€	€
Unrestricted		
Legacy Donations	21,721	37,734
Other Grants	10,000	
	31,721	37,734
Restricted		
Other Grants	3,200	
	3,200	

5. Income From Charitable Activities

	2021	2020
	€	€
Shop Income	6,285	3,488
Public Fundraising	836,345	442,401
Corporate Fundraising	164,547	122,902
Other Income	2.081	_
Total Income from Charitable activities	1,009,258	568,791
Made up as follows:		
Unrestricted Income	1,009,258	568,791
Restricted Income		_
	1,009,258	568,791

6. Expenditure

6.1 Raising Funds

		2021	2020
		€	€
	Direct costs	42,648	66,893
I	Marketing and advertising	92,794	11,883
,	Staff remuneration and other staff costs	81,398	60,885
	Support costs (6.3)	67,994	29,003
		284,834	168,664

In 2021, €1,088 of the costs of management and admin were restricted (2020: €Nil).

Raising funds costs are those costs which are directly attributable to the charities fund raising operations.

6.2 Dog Costs

	2021	2020
	€	€
Direct costs	153,801	105,490
Staff remuneration and other staff costs	180,036	78,924
Support costs (6.3)	131,989	56,301
	465,826	240,715

In 2021, €2,112 of the costs of management and admin were restricted (2020: €5,055).

Dog costs are those costs which are directly attributable to the acquisition, breeding, training, welfare and ongoing support of dogs placed with families.

6.3 Support Costs

Costs	Basis of Allocation	Raising Funds	Dog Costs	2021	2020
		€	€	€	€
Staff remuneration and other staff costs	Staff Time	33,882	65,772	99,654	38,546
Depreciation	Usage	3,256	6,320	9,576	700
Insurance	Usage	4,382	8,507	12,889	2,192
Audit fees	Governance	1,367	2,653	4,020	3,433
Subscriptions	Usage	1,253	2,432	3,685	1,535
Professional Fees	Governance	1,040	2,019	3,059	972
Rent and office expenses	Staff Time	22,814	44,286	67,100	37,926
Total		67,994	131,989	199,983	85,304

Support costs are those costs which are incurred by the charity but are not directly attributable to either fund raising operations or dog costs.

7. Net Incoming Resources

Net incoming resources are stated after charging/(crediting):

	2021	2020
	€	€
Auditors remuneration:	4,020	3,433
Depreciation of tangible assets	13,820	700
	17,840	4,133



8. Analysis Of Staff Costs, Directors' Remuneration And Expenses, And The Cost Of Key Personnel

	2021	2020
	€	€
Wages and salaries	320,824	161,599
Social Insurance costs	33,766	16,744
	354,590	178,343
Average number of employees	13	7
Made up as follows:		
	2021	2020
	Full Time	Full Time
Fundraising	1	. 1
Management	1	. 1
Operations	4	1
	Part Time	Part Time
Office Administration	2	1
Fundraising	3	1
Operations	2	2

Management staff spend 50% of their time involved in the operations of the Charity.

No Directors received any remuneration during the year.

9. Taxation

The Company is exempt from taxation due to its charitable status (Revenue Commissioner's registration number: CHY 19293).

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10. Tangible Assets

	Motor Vehicles	Fixtures & Fittings	Computer Equipment	Total
	€	€	€	€
Cost				
At 1 September 2020	6,500	-	-	6,500
Additions	82,988	20,873	4,029	107,890
At 31 August 2021	89,488	20,873	4,029	114,390
Depreciation				
At 1 September 2020	3,500	-	-	3,500
Charge for the year	5,313	4,175	88	9,576
At 31 August 2021	8,813	4,175	88	13,076
Carrying Amount at				
31 August 2021	80,675	16,698	3,941	101,314
Carrying Amount at				
31 August 2020	3,000			3,000

The Directors consider the carrying value of tangible fixed assets as at 31 August 2021 to be appropriate.

11. Stocks

	2021	2020
	€	€
Fundraising Stocks	6,096	-
Dog Maintenance Stocks	41,115	
	47,211	_

The replacement cost of stock did not differ significantly from the figures shown.



12. Debtors

	2021	2020
	€	€
Accrued income	6,319	11,357
Prepayments	5,951	180
	12,270	11,537

13. Creditors (Amounts Falling Due Within One Year)

2021	2020
€	€
6,657	1,897
3,921	1,594
3,470	-
-	8,547
17,918	7,039
31,966	19,077
	€ 6,657 3,921 3,470 - 17,918

14. Creditors (Amounts Falling Due After More Than One Year)

	2021	2020
	€	€
Hire Purchase Payable	5,207	-
	5,207	-

15. Obligations Under Finance Leases And Hire Purchase Contracts

The total future minimum lease payments under finance lease agreements and hire purchase contracts are as follows:

	2021	2020
	€	€
Not later than 1 year	3,470	-
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	5,207	-
Later than 5 years	<u> </u>	_
	8,677	_

16. Commitments And Contingent Liabilities

As at 31 August 2021, there are no commitments or contingent liabilities.

17. Financial Instruments

The analysis of the carrying amounts of the financial instruments of the company under section 11 of FRS 102 is as follows:

	2021	2020
	€	€
Financial assets that are Debt Instruments measured at undiscounted cost		
Cash at bank and in hand	434,460	269,103
Other Debtors	12,270	11,537
Financial Liabilities measured at amortised cost		
Hire Purchase payables	8,677	-
Financial Liabilities measured at undiscounted cost		
Trade Creditors	6,657	1,897
Accruals	3,921	8,547
Other Creditors	-	1,594
PAYE	17 918	7 039



18. Company Limited By Guarantee

See paragraph 6 of the constitution.

"Every member of the Company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the Company in the event of its being wound up while he is a member or within one year afterwards, for payment of debts and liabilities of the company contracted before he ceases to be a member and the costs, charges and expenses of winding up and for the adjustments of the rights of the contributories among themselves, such amount as may be required not exceeding €1."

19. Related Party Transactions

There were no related party transactions during the financial year ended 31 August 2021 (2020: none).

20. Post Balance Sheet Events

There were no significant events affecting the company which have taken place since the end of the financial year.

21. Approval Of Financial Statements

The financial statements were approved by the Directors on 8 December 2021.











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Registered Charity Number : CHY19293 Company Registration Number : CRO 483682